

Stepping Up!

VT Safe Routes
to School
Resource Center

2012-2013
Annual Report



VERMONT
Safe Routes to
SCHOOL



It's Been a Busy Year!

Between 2012 and 2013, the Resource Center helped 70 schools get over 20,000 students participating in Safe Routes to School programs. The Resource Center brought schools and community partners together, provided training opportunities, and assisted with travel plans to support safe and active routes to school!



100+
Walk to School and
Way to Go!
Events



20,000
students engaged in
VT SRTS programs

57

Friends supported VT SRTS

Friends support the SRTS movement in Vermont by volunteering, donating small items to the program, or simply spreading the word about the program or events.

50+

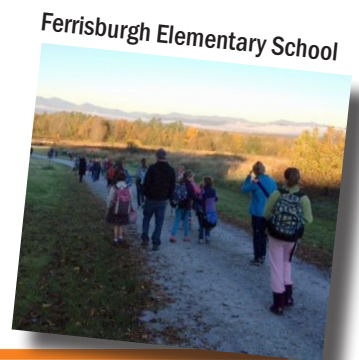
Infrastructure or feasibility
projects awarded to date



20
new partners
(40% increase from last year!)
AND

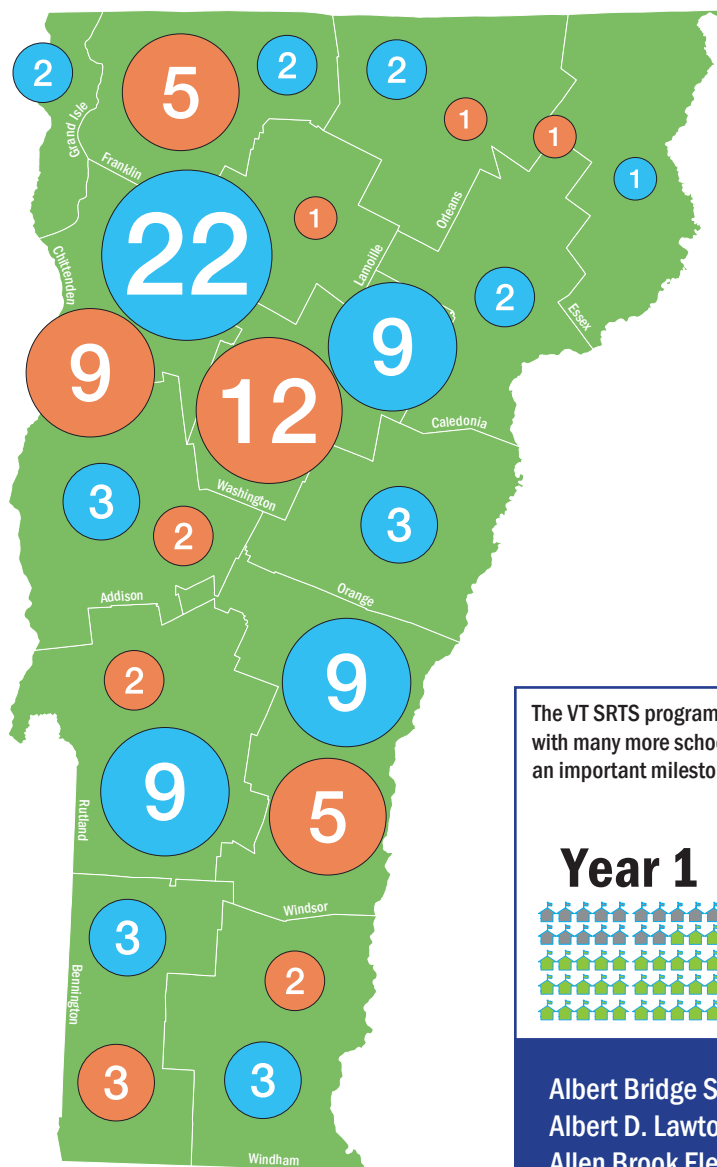
44%
of partners moved up
a level!

25%
of VT schools
participate in
SRTS



50
schools participated in
WalkSmart/Bike Smart Training,
National SRTS Course or the
“Getting Kids on Bikes” webinar

School Partnership Program



37% Basic Partners

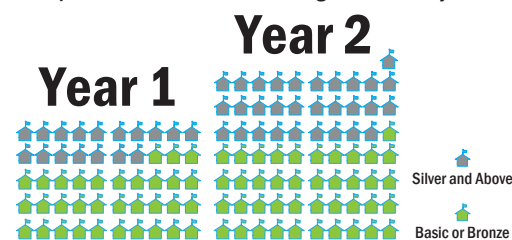
21% Bronze Partners

31% Silver Partners

9% Gold Partners

1% Platinum Partners

The VT SRTS program is not only bigger but also stronger, with many more schools earning their Silver designation, an important milestone to achieving sustainability.



Partners

Friends



Partner Schools

Albert Bridge School
 Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School
 Allen Brook Elementary School
 Barnes Sustainability Academy
 Barre Town School
 Benson Village School
 Bradford Elementary School
 Browns River Middle School
 Burke Town School
 C. P. Smith Elementary School
 Central Elementary School
 Chamberlin School
 Champlain School
 Concord School
 Crossett Brook Middle School
 Dothan Brook School
 Edmunds Elementary School
 Fairfield Center School
 Fayston Elementary School
 Ferrisburgh Elementary School
 Folsom Educational and Community Center

Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School
 Green Street School
 Hartland Elementary School
 Hiawatha Elementary School
 Isle La Motte Elementary School
 Jay/Westfield School
 Jericho Elementary School
 Killington Elementary School
 Lincoln Community School
 Lyndon Town School
 Malletts Bay School
 Manchester Elementary/Middle School
 Mary Hogan School
 Middletown Springs Elementary School
 Milton Elementary School
 Milton Junior/Middle School
 Monument Elementary School
 Moretown Elementary School
 Neshobe School
 Newton School
 Northeast Primary School
 Orchard Elementary School
 Ottauquechee School
 Porters Point School
 Poultney Elementary School
 Rutland Intermediate School
 Rutland Town School
 Saxtons River Elementary School
 Shaftsbury Elementary School
 Sharon Elementary School
 Shelburne Community School
 St. Albans City School
 Stockbridge Central School
 Summit Street School
 Thatcher Brook Primary School
 Thetford Elementary School
 Thomas Fleming School
 Troy School
 Twinfield Union Elementary School
 Underhill ID Elementary School
 Union Elementary School
 Waitsfield Elementary School
 Warren School
 Weathersfield School
 West Rutland School
 Westford Elementary School
 Williston Central School
 Windsor State Street School
 Woodstock Elementary School

Isle La Motte: First Platinum Partner School

After a loss of funding for busing, Isle La Motte Elementary School seized the chance to seek safe and healthy alternatives to get their students to school. Since launching their Safe Routes to School program in the spring of 2012, Isle La Motte has been able to transform its community from almost entirely busing to almost entirely biking. Their year-round commitment (even in below-freezing temperature!) has yielded participation rates reaching 96%, whether on daily trips or celebratory walk & roll days. Even pre-kindergarten students are joining in the fun!

School champion Barbara Larvey, a PE teacher, has been crucial in activating the school community—with her leadership, the school community made huge strides institutionalizing their Safe Routes program. Triumphs include:

- ✓ Presenting a School Travel Plan to the Town Board
- ✓ Partnering with the Grand Isle Sheriff to increase presence during arrival time
- ✓ Enacting a “Bike the Lot” after-school skills program
- ✓ Enlisting 5th Grade Leaders to assist with walk/bike punch-cards
- ✓ Hosting an Intergenerational Walk & Roll to School Day: in May 2013, parents, grandparents, family pets, school board members, town officials, the sheriff’s department, and town “Super Seniors” met at the Fire Station, joining students and staff as they walked and biked the ¾ mile to school

Through their efforts and effective partnerships with local agencies, officials, and the Vermont Safe Routes Resource Center, Isle La Motte School has become a model Safe Routes to School partner. What’s next for Isle La Motte Elementary? We look forward to finding out!



Platinum Level Requirements

- ✓ Integrate SRTS into the school’s reward system
- ✓ Enable and encourage school staff to actively participate in the SRTS program
- ✓ Include town officials in SRTS program
- ✓ Provide the Walk Smart/Bike Smart Vermont! curriculum in the classroom to all students
- ✓ Post SRTS Travel Plan on the school, town, or city’s website
- ✓ EITHER Include students in SRTS program planning OR share successes and lessons learned at the local and/or national level



Gold Level Schools

Gold Voices

Burke Town School
C.P. Smith Elementary School
Central Elementary School
Folsom School
Green Street School
Moretown Elementary School

We asked Gold Level partner schools to share their challenges, ideas, and techniques for motivation. This is what they had to say...

“Make sure your administration backs you 100%. **Our principal set the expectation that all faculty & staff participate** in some capacity.

When Walk & Roll was announced the teachers came volunteering to fill spots! We love the community aspect this event fosters.”

-Lisa Gray, Burke Town School

“The real reason for being able to sustain the program here at Smith is parent involvement—**parents seeing others walking with their kids... it became contagious.**

We really talked it up during the school day as well. We had lots of superstar 5th graders come walk with us as walking leaders, which was very motivating.”

-Chris Souliere, C.P. Smith Elementary School



“The biggest challenge to sustaining a SRTS program is having enough champions at the school to promote and sustain it. An advantage to parent volunteers is that they can network and **encourage neighbors and friends to be a part of the program.**”

-Alice Charkes, Green Street School



“Our Safe Routes journey has been a ‘muscle-building’ process on many levels...I feel strongly that we would not have sidewalks coming soon or traffic calming radar signs if we hadn’t been empowered through this program.

As a parent-initiated program, we found it necessary to **start small and build up with the events, gaining confidence and trust as we went.** We are fortunate at this stage in our program to have full and creative support from within our school, as well as the admiration of all the neighbors who are enjoying a safer village.”

-Dara Torre, Moretown Elementary School



VT SRTS Firsts

Calendar Art Contest



SRTS Art Contest Winner

Students from all over Vermont submitted art for the VT SRTS 2013-2014 Calendar contest. Every partner school and student with a winning submission received a calendar with walking and biking tips, monthly walk to school themes, and Walk and Roll to School event dates. Elements of the artwork were also used to create bookmarks, which each student received as part of the Spring VT Intergenerational Walk to School.



VT SRTS Annual Forum

First VT SRTS Annual Meeting

The Resource Center held its first annual meeting in March of 2013 in Randolph, VT. Approximately 40 partners and friends attended the day-long event, which included a keynote address from Jon Kaplan, the State of Vermont's Bike/Ped Program Manager and presentations from SRTS award winning school champions. Round table discussions followed, where partners shared their ideas and helped each other work through challenges. The event concluded with a hands on "Train the Trainer" event, led by the Vermont Center for Health and Learning, which provided instructions to partners for teaching the WalkSmart/BikeSmart curriculum.

1st Annual Spring Vermont Intergenerational Walk and Roll to School Day



Twinfield Union Elementary School Intergenerational Walk to School Day

On May 1, over 40 schools took part in the very first Spring VT Intergenerational Walk and Roll to School Day! Co-sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Vermont Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (VTAHPERD), Vermont's Intergenerational Walk to School Day encouraged senior citizens to walk with students to school. Schools participating in the event worked with local senior citizen groups, grandparents and other senior relatives, to celebrate the fun and healthy aspects of walking to school. Some schools have continued to work with senior groups to act as chaperones for walking school buses.

New Resources!

- Tips for Walking and Biking Safely to School
- Walking on Rural Roads
- Including Students When It's Too Far or Unsafe
- Find Your Green Way to School



Available on your 2013 Partnership CD and the VT SRTS website.

2012-2013 Exclusives

- Student Artwork Calendar
- Student Artwork Bookmarks



Building on Our Success

Way to Go! Week Carbon Cup Challenge



Carbon Cup Winners

For the second year in a row, the VT SRTS Resource Center partnered with Way to Go! to create a school division for the annual Carbon Cup Commuter Challenge from May 14-18. 27 schools competed to maximize the number of students who walk, bike, skateboard, bus, and carpool to school each day. This is five times higher than Year 1 participation. **Participating schools saved a total of 6,711 pounds of carbon dioxide, roughly equivalent to planting 78 trees.**



WalkSmart/BikeSmart Training

WalkSmart/BikeSmart Curriculum Trainings

In April, the VT SRTS Resource Center partnered with the Vermont Center for Health and Learning and Local Motion to provide free curriculum trainings. Held in Rutland and Burlington, the half-day courses provided training for over 20 school and community members on how to teach children safe biking and walking skills.

International Walk to School Day



Brown River Middle School and Underhill ID Elementary School International Walk to School Day

On October 3, 2012, 45 schools participated in International Walk to School Day (or 1 out of 6 schools in VT), reaching the **4th highest participation rate in the nation!**

Travel Plan Assistance



Thetford Elementary School Travel Plan Meeting

Eight schools (Edmonds, C.P. Smith, Underhill, Lyndon, Concord, Burke, Manchester, and Neshobe) completed School Travel Plans this year. The VT SRTS Resource Center helped schools to organize Travel Plan teams, facilitated three meetings at each school, and provided technical assistance in creating the plans. Find all these completed plans on the VT SRTS website.

Looking Ahead! What can we look forward to next year?



- New Resources & Incentive Items for Walk to School Events, including the Walk Across America challenge and Walking School Bus kits!
- A training video for School Crossing Guards!
- The Resource Center's 2nd Annual Meeting
- Interactive webinars on topics suggested by partners
- Our 2nd Student Art Contest!

Friends of Vermont Safe Routes to School Resource Center

Over the past year, 57 friend organizations, representing each county in Vermont, have pledged their support for VT SRTS and offered their time and resources to help VT SRTS flourish on the local and state level.

From police departments to public health interests, regional planning groups, bike and pedestrian advocacy groups, and private businesses, the VT SRTS friend organizations provide the local support that fuels SRTS programs and fosters culture change to make walking and biking a popular and convenient way to get to school. Thank you!

AARP Vermont

Addison County Regional Commission

American Heart Association –
Northeast Affiliate

Bennington County Regional
Commission

Bennington DOH District Office

Bennington Police Department

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont

Brandon Police Department

Burlington Department of Health
District Office

Burlington Kidical Mass

Burlington School District

Center for Health and Learning

Central Vermont Regional Commission

Chittenden County Regional Planning
Commission

Community Connections

Eat Well, Play More Vermont

Essex CHIPS

Fit and Healthy Enosburg

Fit and Healthy Swanton

Fuel Up to Play 60

Go Chittenden

Go Vermont

Governor's Highway Safety Program

Grand Isle Police Department

Greater Burlington YMCA

Green Mountain United Way

Health Connections of the Upper Valley

Lamoille County Regional Commission

Local Motion

Middlebury Energy Committee

Milton Youth Coalition

Mt. Ascutney Hospital

Newport DOH District Office

Northeastern Vermont Development
Association

Northwest Regional Planning
Commission

Ottawaquechee Community Partnership

Rad Innovations

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

Rutland Recreation and Parks
Department

Safe Kids Vermont

Shelburne Parks and Recreation
Department

South Burlington Parks & Recreation
Department

South Burlington Public Works
Department

Southern Windsor County Regional
Planning Commission

Sustainable Woodstock

St. Albans Department of Health
District Office

Swanton Police Department

Town of Jericho

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional
Commission

Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports

Vermont Association for Health,
Physical Education, Recreation and
Dance

Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition

Vermont Campaign for Healthcare
Security

Vermont Department of Education

Vermont Department of Health, Fit and
Healthy Vermonters

Way to Go! Vermont

Windham Regional Commission

Thank you to our many Partners and Friends who
shared their SRTS experiences and successes through
photos and stories.



www.saferoutesvt.org

www.facebook.com/saferoutesvt

Abby Mattera
State Outreach Manager
VT SRTS Resource Center
abby@saferoutesvt.org

Jon Kaplan
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Vermont Agency of Transportation
jon.kaplan@state.vt.us